ancial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

RBI action on bridge loans

7760. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published under the caption "Banks irked as RBI seeks details of bridge loans" in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi, dated the 28th April, 1995;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereot;

(c) whether the RBI is putting up severe restrictions on nationalised banks while the foregin banks are not caring even to follow relevant rules for operating on Indian soil; and

(d) what are the details of the violations committeed by foreign banks during the past six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the sanction of bridge loans by banks and financial institutions (FIs) against public issues/market borrowing has been banned with effect from April 17, 1995 due to absence of a risk free arrangement for such advances which are mostly in the form of unsecured credit. Further, banks and FIs were unable to ennsure end-use of funds lent by them by way of bridge loans against public issues/market borrowings. Banks were also found to have not assessed properly the element of risk involved in sanction o bridge loans. There were also cases where recovery of bridge loans was not effected within the due date. RBI has further reported that it has advised the banks to furnish the quantum of bridge loans sanctioned by them and which are outstanding in their books beyond six months. As per information available with RBI, no bank has protested against calling for such information.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permsisible under the Rules.

Housing Finance Companies

7761. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the housing finance companies within the purview of National Housing Bank as on date, their share capital, assets, liabilities and income including the net profit during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what were the terms and conditions which were approved in the past by National Housing Bank;

(c) whether any changes were made or are being contemplated in lending money for house financing if so, the details thereof in each case;

(d) how many persons took loans of Rs. one lakh and less from these companies during the last three years; year-wise and State-wise;

(e) how many persons took loans from these companies of Rs. two lakhs and less than two lakhs during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(f) whether it is a fact that the lending rates of loans of more than Rs. two lakhs are being raised by these companies with approval of National Housing Bank; if so when the decision making body of the bank set and approved this decision; and

(g) whether the hike in lendnig rate will adversely affect the house construction in the country and whether Government will take steps to exempt loans upto two lakhs from the hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) National Housing Bank (NHB) has re-